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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T .

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1966.

and

Incorporating the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BRIERFIELD,
Lancashire.

April, 1967.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Brierfield Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration,
the following report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and
Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield
for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

It includes various matters which have affected Public
Health during the year. All records and statistics are
being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as
practicable be continuous and complete.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. BARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1966 according to the Rate Book was 2,756, the rateable value being £185,138 and the sum represented by a penny rate of £724, 0. Od.

Social conditions were generally quite good. There was no serious unemployment. The main industry is cotton. The manufacture of bottle tops is also carried on. It became known towards the end of the year that one mill employing some 300 people would close down early in 1967.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1966 is 7,280.

BIRTHS. 95 Live Births belonging to the District occurred during 1966, 42 males, 53 females. Of these 7, 4 male and 3 female were illegitimate.

There were no still births recorded.

Comparative particulars with regard to live births over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

	<u>1966.</u>	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>
Total Live Births.	95	97	111	114	102
Crude Birth Rate per					
1000 estim. populatn.	13.0	13.3	15.1	15.6	14.3
Adjusted Rate	14.5	14.8	16.8	17.3	15.7

It is pleasing to NIL returns under the following headings:-

1. Maternal Mortality.
2. Infantile Mortality.
3. Neo-Natal Mortality.
4. Early Neo-Natal Mortality.
5. Perinatal Mortality.

Previous Infant Mortality rates

<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
30.9	18.2	17.7	19.6	77.6

DEATHS. 90 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1965 as follows:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths within the Urban District.	27	29	56
Deaths outside the Urban District in Hospitals, Institutions etc.	17	17	34
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	44	46	90
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



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Death Rate (Cause Groups 10-15),
Malignant Neoplasms etc. 1.65.

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

	<u>1966.</u>	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>
Total Deaths.	90	107	112	82	77
Crude Death Rate per 100 estmd. population.	12.4	14.7	15.4	11.3	10.8
Adjusted Rate	12.5	14.7	15.7	11.5	10.5

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1966.

Causes of Death at different periods of Life during 1966.

Columns for the ages 4 wks. and under 1 yr; 1-5 yrs; 35-45 yrs. have been omitted as no death occurred in these age groups.

Cause of death.	Sex.	Total all Ages.	Ages in Years.					
			15-	25-	45-	55-	65-	75 & Over
Malignant Neoplasm,Lung, Bronchus.	M	3	-	-	-	1	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm,Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	4	-	1	-	1	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	2	1
Diabetes	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	M	8	-	-	-	1	1	6
	F	13	-	-	-	-	4	9
Coronary Disease, Angina.	M	10	-	-	1	3	3	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	2	2
Hypertension with heart Disease.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other heart disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	1	5
Other circulatory disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	1	1	1
Bronchitis	M	6	-	-	-	2	4	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other defined and ill- defined diseases.	M	2	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F	6	1	-	1	-	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Suicide.	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total all Causes.	M.	33	-	1	3	11	15	13
	F.	47	1	-	1	2	14	29

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases were entered in the register, one male aged 40, (Transfer from Burnley), and one male aged 73. Two cases were removed from the register as recovered and one case transferred from the district.

CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1966.

On the Register at the end of December, 1966, there were 22 cases of Tuberculosis (17 Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:-

	5- 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	Over 65	TOTAL.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	4	1	7	2	1	2	17
Non-Pulmonary								
Cervical Glands	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Perianal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Renal Tract	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	1	4	2	7	3	2	3	22

All these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer and no direct information is available about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest Clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK.

This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Meadow Street, Preston, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following:-

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The Urban District is served by ambulance and sitting cars.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. The Infant Welfare Centre for the Urban District is held weekly under the supervision of Nursh Bush, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE. There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Per 1,000 Estimated Population.

	<u>Crude Live Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate.</u>
Mean of 5 years 1961-1965.	15.0	13.4
Year 1965	13.3	14.7
Year 1966.	13.0	12.4
Increase or decrease in 1966 on 5 years average 1961-1965	-2.0	-1.0
Change on Previous Year.	-0.3	-2.3

<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE.</u>		<u>DEATH RATE</u>
<u>per 1000 Live Births</u>	<u>Per 1000 Live and Stillbirths.</u>	<u>of Infants under 1 yr. per 1000 Live Births</u>
Mean of 5 years 1961-65	1.8	32.8
Year 1965	Nil	30.9
Year 1966	Nil	Nil
Increase or decrease in 1966 on 5 years average 1961-1965	-1.8	-32.8
Previous Year.	Nil	-30.9

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

All cases kept at home. No deaths.

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES	Age Groups					
		-1	1/3	3/5	5/10	10/15	15/25
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	98	1	34	43	17	3	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	1	1	1	-	-	-
	104	2	35	46	17	3	1

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH, CLEANSING AND SEWAGE COMMITTEE:-

Chairman: Councillor Nolan, Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Reynard.
Councillors: Mrs. Arnold, Bentham, Brown, Clegg, Edmondson,
Greenwood, Marsh, Mrs. Rawlinson, Sutcliffe and Tomlinson.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Arthur Barlow, M.B., Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector. John S. Haworth.
Certificate of R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B.
R.S.H. Certificate for Inspection of
Meat and Other Foods,
Smoke Inspector,
Sanitary Science etc.

Duties. All matters coming within the purview
of a Public Health Inspector including
supervision of refuse collection.
Appointed as Officer under the Offices,
Shops and Railway Premises Act.
Appointed as an Officer under the
Shops Act by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLY. Brierfield is supplied with a constant
supply of water from the mains of the
North Calder Water Board and there were
no new sources of supply during the year.
All dwellinghouses within the District,
except one, are supplied direct from
public mains. The one exception, which
is supplied by spring water, is an
isolated farm dwelling and is a
considerable distance from the nearest
public main.

SUPPLIES TO HOUSES. The number of houses supplied direct from
public mains is 2,824.

WATER SAMPLING.

Public Mains. Number of Bacteriological examinations 9.
All proved to be satisfactory. A
chemical sample showed an unusually
high iron content of 4.8 p.p.m. The
Water Board successfully dealt with
this problem which had been the cause
of many complaints.

SWIMMING BATHS. There are no Swimming Baths or Pools
within the District.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the Disposal Works at the lowest part of the District. Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. The effluent from the works is discharged into Pendle Water.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens. NIL.

Number of Pail Closets. There are five only, two of them at isolated dwellings, the other three on the golf course. These are emptied weekly by Council employees.

Number of Fresh Water Closets. 2,369.

Number of Waste Water Closets. 588.

Conversions during the Year.

Number of Pail Closets to fresh water closets.	NIL.
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets	44.
Number of houses on the water carriage system.	2,820.

Chief Sanitary requirement of the District.

Continued action on the conversion of waste water closets. Improvement of the many old dwellinghouses which require hot water, baths and other amenities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. This is carried out by direct labour with a Shelvoke and Drewry 16/18 c.yd. Fore and Aft Tipper equipped with a power press. Domestic refuse and refuse from shops, factories etc., is collected weekly and disposed of at the Burnley Tip by arrangement with the County Borough Council.

Number of Moveable Ashbins. 3,089.

SALVAGE. Collection of salvage continued during the year and although the amount disposed of is again a little higher than that for the previous year it is still much lower than for the years 1959 - 1962 and is indeed much lower than it should be. The following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year. Scrap metal is not included as most of the scrap sold had been obtained from Council properties and the revenue therefore, credited to the Housing Fund.

<u>Weights.</u>			<u>Materials.</u>		<u>Amount realised.</u>		
T.	c.	q.			£	s.	d.
97	4	0	Waste paper.		855	16	6
	11	2	Rags and string		7	7	10
<hr/>					<hr/>		
97	15	2			863	4	4
<hr/>					<hr/>		

Figures for the six previous years are as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Weight.</u>			<u>Revenue.</u>		
	T.	c.	q.	£.	s.	d.
1960	131	2	3	1,085	15	1
1961	148	18	0	1,186	18	11
1962	122	7	9	961	10	7
1963	77	1	3	601	0	6
1964	71	10	2	574	19	7
1965	94	18	0	824	0	10

INSPECTIONS MADE.

1965. 1966.

Number of complaints received and investigated (not including complaints re refuse collection service)	311	297
Number of complaints received and dealt with re refuse collection service and blocked street gullies.	364	433
Number of requests for additional collections	367	537
Visits to Smoke Control area	2	201
Industrial Plant	5	6
Smoke Nuisances	10	4
Smoke Observations	13	2
Sanitary accommodation etc. in factories and workshops	62	28
Bakehouses	13	27
Unfit food.	3	3
Food preparation premises (not bakehouses)	172	126
Water supplies	31	16
Complaints/re-visits.	693	499
Infectious Diseases Enquiries/Food Poisoning	2	7
Filthy verminous premises.	4	4
Public Sanitary Accommodation	4	26
Council Houses	19	27
Animals	7	9
Housing Act. Inspections	26	17
Re-inspections	67	166
Overcrowding	4	2
Interviews owners etc.	114	65
Rats-Surveys (Sewer Treatment)	9	4
Rats/Mice	120	130
Other Infestations	30	18
Noise-Industrial	33	33
Noise-Domestic	3	8
O.S.R.R. Act	134	56
Shops Act	215	350
Schools	4	4
Refuse Accumulations	856	644
Houses in Multiple Occupation	3	3
Drains Tested	45	30
Water Samples taken	27	9
Milk Samples Taken	46	14
Ice Cream Samples taken	6	2
Informal Notices Served	92	111
Informal Notices Remedied	82	95
Formal Notices Served	43	45
Formal Notices Remedied	35	7

DISINFESTATION. Complaints were received of infestation by cockroaches from 45 dwellinghouses. These were treated by a servicing firm.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. There are no caravans or sites licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936, and no licenses have been applied for under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951. One of the two shops previously licensed under this Act closed during the year. The premises were maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

H O U S I N G.

CONDITION.

Most of the houses are stone built in terraces and about 80% of them are owner occupied. The majority are well maintained but there are some falling slowly into a state of disrepair. Amenities in these older houses are lacking. The more recently built brick houses include detached bungalows, and semi detached houses.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES. There are 16 such houses, mainly owner/occupied, well maintained and in very good condition.

NEW BUILDINGS. During the year twentytwo houses were completed by private enterprise, and eight flats by the Council.

OVER-CROWDING. No new cases were reported during the year, and none was proved. The situation in some of the houses occupied by Pakistanis is somewhat obscure.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 139
- b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made. 317
- c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit. 71
2. Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which
 - a) Demolition, Clearance and Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 20
 - b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made -

REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR.

- a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. 32
- b) Public Health Act - action after service of formal notice, houses in which defects were remedied,
 - (i) By Owners NIL
 - (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL
- c) Housing Act, 1957 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16) houses made fit,
 - (i) By Owners. NIL
 - (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959 - STANDARD GRANTS.

Action during the year.	Number of Schemes.	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected.
Submitted to and approved by Local Authority.		
a) to full standard.	63	63
b) to reduce standard.	62	62
c) Work completed	56	56

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Distributors is as follows:-

a) Dairies in the District	5
b) Premises outside the District	7
c) Shops in the District other than Dairies	34

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and thus responsible for the issue of Licences.

MILK SAMPLING.

During the year, 14 samples of milk were obtained, 6 of which were Raw Milk (Tuberculin Tested), 15 Pasteurised and 3 Sterilised. These samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Failed Methylene Blue Test	1
Void	1

All other tests, Methylene Blue, Phosphatase, Biological, Turbidity etc., were satisfactory and Antibiotics were not detected.

Samples taken outside the district by Burnley CBC were followed up by the veterinary officer.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES. Two samples of Ice Cream were obtained during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, both were Grade 1.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES. There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the District.

FOOD PREMISES. The number of Food Premises in the District at the end of 1966 was as follows:

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number.</u>
General Grocers	31
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Including wet fish)	6
Butchers and Cooked Meats	14
Bakers and Confectioners	10
Fried Fish Shops	6
Sugar Confectionery, Ice Cream, Minerals etc.	16
Licensed Hotels	10
Snack Bars etc.	19

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under Local Acts.

Type of Business	No. Registered.	No. of inspections of registered premises during the year
Butchers and Meat Products	14	31
Bakers & Confectioners	7	17
Grocers & Mixed	16	34
Sweets & Soft Drinks	15	36

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Particulars of inspections made under this Act are given at the bottom of the page.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Number of Factory chimneys in the District	5
Observations taken during the year	2
Smoke nuisances discovered	NIL.

Brierfield No.1 Smoke Control Order was made during the year. There are 237 private dwellings therein, 5 Commercial premises, 1 lock-up shop and 5 other buildings, covering some 75 acres.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full treatment of the sewers was carried out and there-after a "Follow-up" treatment. From the number of rats found on the surface and on the screens at the sewage works this appears to have been very successful. The number of manholes showing 'no takes' would appear to indicate that the rat population is not increasing.

The following properties were treated:-

Properties treated following notification and found to be infested by	a) Rats	45
	b) Mice	30
Routine inspections (Other than above)		80
Properties found infested by Rats		4

In addition the Councils' tips and buildings were regularly inspected and baited.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Occu-piers Pros-ecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Auth.	3	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Auth.	45	21	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Auth.(excluding out-worker's premises)	4	4	-	-
Total.	52	28	-	-

2. DEFECTS. No defects were found.

3. OUTWORKERS. Sections 110 and 111. No outworkers were engaged.

COMMENT.

GENERAL.

1964 was reported as being a year of changes, 1965 as a year of review and consolidation. 1966 a mixed year of achievement and frustration. Achievement because of progress under the Clean Air Act, frustration because of the failure to win over the "dumpers", the utterly selfish people concerned only with themselves, without any thought whatever for the amenities of their neighbourhood. Frustration because of the far too frequent mechanical failure of the refuse collection vehicle. Frustration also because of the ever increasing amount of clerical work. Inspections are being made, but Records are not always dealt with as promptly as is desirable. Abandoned vehicles have continued to be a problem.

Another problem that frequently arises in this area is that of water in cellars. When as often happens the normal tests of the drains proved nothing and the Water Board cannot find a burst, the mystery remains unsolved and testing continues. It is difficult on these occasions to make tenants and/or owners understand that the Council's overall responsibility for Public Health does not include the removal at public expense of nuisances on private property.

SMOKE CONTROL.

Brierfield (no.1) Smoke Control Order 1966 was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in July. The area covers some 75 acres and includes 237 dwelling houses, 5 commercial premises, one lock-up shop and five other buildings.

Many residents who though not opposing the order had not liked it, discovered when their grates had been converted that the improvement was well worth while.

By the end of the year about one quarter of the houses had complied with the order.

HOUSING.

A few houses have been closed after action under the Housing Act. A few will eventually be demolished but others, unfit houses in a row of owner occupied properties must remain empty until the Council is satisfied that they have been made fit. There are other empty houses on which no Housing action has been taken; deteriorating houses, wasting assets, an eyesore to everybody. No attempt is made to sell or let them and they remain, a puzzle and a sad, silent reminder of man's neglect and disregard of his environment.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Again it must be reported that the service suffered from many changes in personnel and from frequent mechanical failures. A little progress has been made with the sack system but much remains to be done. In 1966 there were 375 complaints re failure to empty bins and 39 complaints re street gullies compared with a figure of 364 in 1965.

In 1965 there were 367 requests for additional collections, in 1966 537. Additional transport had to be hired and although there were delays all requests were dealt with. The service provided by the Council is however not always appreciated. It certainly does not stop some people from going to considerable trouble to dump unwanted material in odd places.

REFUSE COLLECTION (Cont.)

It must be assumed that the "dumpers" are not responsible rate-payers. It is difficult to imagine why any ratepayer would deliberately cause unnecessary expenditure. My colleagues in Burnley, Burnley Rural and Nelson have again been most helpful and merit the highest praise for their kind co-operation.

WATER SUPPLY.

The problem of the discoloured water referred to in last years report was dealt with by the Board and has not recurred. The bacteriological samples have proved satisfactory. The scheme providing financial assistance to householders with inadequate service has been a great success.

CONCLUSION.

The co-operation given to the Health Department by the Surveyor, other members of the Council's staff, the Engineer to the Water Board, and the staff of the County Council's Brierfield Clinic is here gratefully acknowledged.

J. S. HAWORTH,

Public Health Inspector.

April, 1967.

